IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented) A method to optimize accounting records in a wireless/packet data network, comprising the steps of:

detecting that a communication link has been established between a mobile terminal and a host in a packet data network; and

accumulating, at a packet data serving node disposed between the mobile terminal and the packet data network, accounting information relating to a wireless communication network serving the mobile terminal and the packet data network, the accounting information being used by service providers to generate billing data to minimize the frequency of producing accounting records by the packet data serving node;

wherein only one start record and only one stop record are sent to the accounting server for a plurality of short data burst transmissions.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the accounting information includes first accounting information obtained from one or more base station controllers in the wireless communication network and second accounting information maintained by the packet data serving node for the packet data network.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

sending the accounting information to an accounting server based on the occurrence of a predetermined event.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the accounting server is a Remote Authentication Dial-In User Service (RADIUS) server.

5. (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising:

merging the first accounting information and the second accounting information into a usage data record (UDR).

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein accounting information relating to a wireless communication network is obtained from accounting messages sent from the wireless communication network.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the accounting messages sent from the wireless communication network include one or more of a connection setup airlink record, a connection release airlink record, an active start airlink record, an active stop airlink record, and a short data burst airlink record.

8. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the predetermined event is receipt of a session release airlink record from the wireless communication network.

9. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the predetermined event is receipt of an active stop airlink record.

10. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the predetermined event is receipt of a short data burst stop airlink record.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the accounting information is accumulated over a series of short data bursts.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the accounting information is accumulated over a series of active traffic channel transmissions.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the accounting information includes the number of octets of data received from the mobile terminal and the number of octets sent to the mobile terminal.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the number of octets of data received from the mobile terminal and the number of octets sent to the mobile terminal further

includes the number of octets received from the mobile terminal in the form of short data bursts and the number of octets sent to the mobile terminal in the form of short data bursts.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the accounting information includes a plurality of short data bursts.

16. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the predetermined event is the expiration of an interim timer.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

generating a session identifier, wherein the accounting information is accumulated based on the session identifier.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the accounting information is associated with a session having multiple IP addresses and wherein accounting information for the wireless communication network and the packet data network are accumulated based on a session identifier and an IP address from the multiple IP addresses

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43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the stop record sent to the accounting server includes the number of short data bursts, the total number of short data burst octets, and the octet count for the plurality of short data burst transmissions.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the start record is a start airlink record, and wherein the stop record is a stop airlink record.